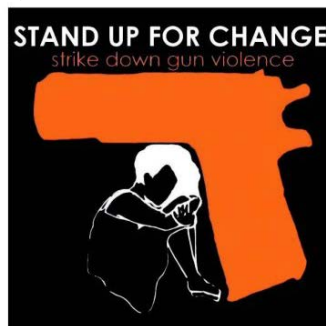


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Moraga Teen takes on fight for safer gun laws

By *Sophie Braccini*

SAT. AUG 25
STRIKE DOWN
GUN VIOLENCE

RALLY WITH STUDENTS
AND PARENTS TO END
GUN VIOLENCE

For more information visit
www.standupforchange.info

CIVIC PARK
Walnut Creek
—
Saturday
August 25, 2018
—
Noon - 2pm
—
You have the
power to make an
impact

SUPPORTED BY
Every Town for Gun
Safety
Moms Demand Action
Moms Rising
Students Demand Action
Bay Area Student
Activists
March for Our Lives

Poster promotes Aug. 25 rally to fight gun violence Image provided

is applied: one is free to speak - or own a weapon - unless there is a risk of it being used in harmful ways.

The articulate and passionate teen has done research on the topic, and, without being an expert, has acquired a substantial body of knowledge. Gerber explains that one of the things that need to be changed is the possibility for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct gun violence research, something that was stopped some 20 years ago by the Dickey Amendment. Car safety research has improved the safety of cars dramatically without banning cars, and studying gun safety could do the same. The student looked for examples such as research done by the Violence Prevention Research Program at UC Davis, which has shown, for example, that repeat convictions of DUIs predisposed the person to commit a violent crime with a firearm.

Gerber reached out to different local groups to organize the rally. The teen explains that the organization of the event took a lot more time and effort than had been anticipated. Gerber joined with Stand Up For Change (<https://www.standupforchange.info/>), a student led anti-gun violence group to put on the Aug. 25 grassroots Civic Park rally. Several other groups joined in, such as Moms Demand Action, Moms Rising, and March For Our Lives.

Gerber says several politicians have been invited to the rally and will be asked questions on their positions and ideas regarding gun regulation. Several students will also talk about their experience with guns and surviving gun violence. The purpose is to raise awareness and foster a dialogue beyond party lines.

For more information about the rally, visit www.standupforchange.info.

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